



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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TTY 711 or 800-833-6388 (For the Speech or Hearing Impaired)

April 11, 2005

Mr. Joel Teeley
Icicle Irrigation District
5594 Wescott Drive
Cashmere, WA 98815

Dear Mr. Teeley:

In our recent telephone conversation, you expressed concern about the letter from Doug Johnson of Ecology's Dam Safety Office regarding safety problems with the Colchuck Lake Dam. We were notified by the U.S. Forest Service on March 28 that the dam partially failed and approximately 800 acre-feet of stored water had leaked out. The Forest Service is worried about the safety of the dam and the District's plan to temporarily patch the damage and immediately refill the lake. The Forest Service asked Ecology to get involved because the dam is under state jurisdiction and they are concerned about the potential risks to hikers and residents downstream if the dam were to fail.

As the state's lead on drought response, I certainly understand the urgent need to store as much water as possible for the dry months ahead. We want to do our part to solve this problem quickly, but in a way that assures the public and downstream property are protected.

Our ability to work together to resolve this matter will be key to meeting Ecology's responsibilities as well as the needs of the Icicle Creek Irrigation District. Along this line, I appreciate your offer to help our engineers get to the dam so they can do a thorough evaluation and determine whether temporary repairs will be sufficient to allow water to be stored this year. If so, Ecology will work with the District to obtain funding to repair the dam. We also are willing to help pay for a seasonal lease of additional water, should the reservoir not be available for full storage.

Thank you for your willingness to work with us to improve the safety of the dam. While we make arrangements to have our staff observe and evaluate the dam's condition in person, I'd like to have Ray Newkirk meet with you and the district board as my representative to discuss potential drought funding and a plan to resolve these issues.

Sincerely,

Jay J. Manning
Director

cc: Senator Linda Parlette
Representative Mike Armstrong
Representative Cary Condotta
Chelan County Commissioner Ron Walter
Chelan County Commissioner Keith Goehner
Chelan County Commissioner Buell Hawkins
Icicle Creek Irrigation District Board

